

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 058744
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 058744

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, MPOL, MARR, GW

SUBJECT: US PROBLEMS WITH FRG BUNDESPOST

REF; BONN 3839

1. OFFICIAL REASON FOR ELIAS VISIT TO WASHINGTON WAS TO FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF WITH US PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN COMMUNICATIONS WORK, AND WITH WHOM THE BUNDESPOST DOES OR MIGHT DO BUSINESS.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 058744

2. MEETING IN STATE WITH OFFICIALS OF DOD AND EUR TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS INVOLVING US FORCES WAS ARRANGED AS SEPARATE PART OF ELIAS PROGRAM, AND WAS DESIGNED TO EMPHASIZE TO HIM THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE WHICH WE ATTACH TO THE APPARENT INABILITY OF THE BUNDESPOST AND US FORCES TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES. ELIAS NOTED OUR INTEREST, BUT GAVE LITTLE INDICATION THAT BUNDESPOST POSITIONS

WOULD BE MODIFIED WITH SINGLE EXCEPTION OF RHEIN-MAIN/
SIEMENS ISSUE. SUBSEQUENT RECEIPT OF JANUARY 23 NOTES BY
EMBASSY HAVE VERIFIED THIS ATTITUDE.

3. IN MARCH 21 CALL ON ELIAS, E/C MINISTER SHOULD REFER
TO THE JANUARY 30 MEETING IN STATE, AND TO TWO NOTES.

MINISTER SHOULD INDICATE TO ELIAS THAT US WISHES TO
ENGAGE APPROPRIATE FRG OFFICIALS IN INFORMAL RPT INFORMAL
EXPLORATORY TALKS IN ORDER BETTER TO DEFINE AND IDENTIFY
THE SPECIFIC ISSUES OF DISPUTE. NO INDICATION SHOULD BE
MADE THAT THESE TALKS REPRESENT FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS.
THE IMMEDIATE NEED NOW IS FOR DIRECT INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS
TO BEGIN.

4. TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS WITH OTHER SENDING STATES,
EMBASSY LEGAL ADVISOR SHOULD KEEP HIS ALLIED COLLEAGUES
INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS AND ENSURE THAT THEY UNDERSTAND
THAT OUR APPROACH IS INFORMAL, AND DESIGNED MERELY AS A
FIRST STEP TO ENGAGING THE BUNDESPOST IN A MORE SERIOUS
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

5. PFUND SHOULD COORDINATE WITH ARON THE STEPS TO BE
TAKEN SHOULD ELIAS AGREE TO PROPOSAL FOR DISCUSSIONS.

6. IF EMBASSY WISHES TO OFFER ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS
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PAGE 03 STATE 058744

PRIOR TO MARCH 21 MEETING, PLEASE DO SO.
VANCE

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NNN

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